

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

March 27, 1997

Business Meeting

MINUTES

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for the regular business meeting in Senate Room B of the General Assembly Building, Richmond, Virginia, Thursday, March 27, 1997, with the following members present:

Ms. Michelle Easton, President

Mrs. Lil Tuttle, Vice President

Senator J. Brandon Bell

Mr. Rayford L. Harris, Sr.

Mr. Robert H. Patterson, Jr.

Senator John W. Russell

Mrs. Cheri P. Yecke

Dr. Richard T. La Pointe

Secretary and Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Ms. Easton, president, presided and called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Tuttle gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Yecke made a motion for approval of the minutes of the February 25 and February 26 meetings. Copies of the minutes have been distributed previously to all members of the Board for review. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried unanimously.

Highlight on Students

The Midlothian High School Madrigal Singers of Chesterfield County sang for the Board of Education and guests. They were led by Choral Director, Michelle Graham. Mr. Edward Witthoefft,

Principal of Midlothian High School, introduced the group.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Easton said that they would hold item E, *Promulgation of Regulations Governing Projects for Regional Alternative Education Programs for Suspended and Expelled Students Under Exemption B, ' 9-6.14:4.1,B.4 of the Code of Virginia*, until a later date to give the Board members more time to review the item.

The motion was made by Mrs. Yecke, seconded by Mr. Harris and carried unanimously for approval of the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Harris made a motion to adopt the following items on the consent agenda.

Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund

Loans

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for
Placement on Waiting List

The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried unanimously.

Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the financial report on the status of the Literary Fund as of January 31, 1997, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of one new application in the amount of \$5,000,000 subject to final approval by the office of the Attorney General was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

COUNTY, CITY TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT

Manassas Park City	Manassas Park City High	\$5,000,000.00
	TOTAL	\$5,000,000.00

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List

The Superintendent's recommendation is that funds be released for eleven projects totaling \$21,099,000 was approved by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Smyth County	Sugar Grove Combined	\$115,000.00
Hopewell City	Woodson Middle	939,000.00
Hopewell City	Hopewell High	597,000.00
Hopewell City	P. Copeland Annex	209,000.00
Hopewell City	Woodlawn Learning	239,000.00
Frederick County	Redbud Run Elementary	5,000,000.00
Frederick County	James Wood High	2,250,000.00
Frederick County	Sherando High	1,650,000.00
Roanoke County	Glenvar Elementary	100,000.00
Franklin County	Center for Applied Tech	5,000,000.00
Hanover County	Atlee Elementary	5,000,000.00
	TOTAL	\$21,099,000.00

Waiting List

The Superintendent's recommendation is that funding for one project in the amount of \$5,000,000 be deferred and the project placed on the First Priority Waiting List. In addition, it is recommended that priority placement be granted for the Honaker High project in Russell County (\$1,155,140) for construction of a new roof. The division superintendent indicates that the current structure will likely not survive an additional winter. There is not sufficient funding available without the literary fund to complete this project

and remain within the approved budget for 1996-97.

First Priority Waiting List

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Manassas Park City	Manassas Park City High	\$5,000,000.00
	TOTAL	\$5,000,000.00

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

Mrs. Yecke and Mrs. Tuttle reported on the public hearings held in West Point and Patrick County.

Mrs. Yecke mentioned an article that appeared in *The Richmond Times Dispatch* titled, **AParents Give High Marks to Henrico County Schools.**@ The article stated that a survey was sent to all parents in Henrico County and the results will be used to structure the new school improvement plan.

Senator Russell stated that Governor Allen has requested that two additional public hearings for the Standards of Accreditation be held in Abingdon and Fairfax Counties. Senator Russell will chair the public hearing to be held in Fairfax and Mr. Patterson will chair the public hearing to be held in Abingdon. The Board agreed to have the public hearing in Fairfax on April 16 and in Abingdon on April 30.

Senator Bell stated that he favored having more input for public hearings but thought it was bad policy for public hearing to be consistently held at locations because of their size.

Ms. Easton commended Mrs. Yecke for testifying before the U. S. House Committee on Education in the Workforce and requested that all Board members receive a copy of the testimony.

Inservice Training for Local School Board Members

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion to rescind the motion of June 23, 1988 and the Superintendent's Memo dated January 18, 1989 and to amend the Board's November 1996 resolution. Mr. Russell seconded the motion and all carried unanimously.

WHEREAS Standard 5 of the Standards of Quality for Public Schools in Virginia requires that:

- C. The Board of Education shall sponsor, conduct and provide advice on . . . (ii) in-service programs for school board members on personnel, curriculum and current issues in education; and**

WHEREAS Standard 5 of the Standards of Quality for Public Schools in Virginia also requires that:

- D. Each local school board shall (i) require its members to participate annually in in-service programs on personnel, curriculum, and current issues in education as part of their service on the local board ...; and

WHEREAS local boards are required to comply with these provisions, and the State Board is authorized to seek local board compliance with them; and

WHEREAS Superintendent's Memorandum No. 2 dated January 18, 1989, stated in part "At the present time, the only approved way that a school board member will be in compliance with this requirement is to attend a VSBA School Board Academy Program"; alternative sources of training would qualify only upon a written request and with prior approval of the VSBA Academy Advisory Committee of the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and

WHEREAS the Virginia School Boards Association was identified as the entity responsible for monitoring events attended and certifying by an annual report to the state board the extent to which local board members had complied with the requirements of Standard 5.D; and

WHEREAS in June 1995, the President of the Board of Education, James P. Jones, received a letter from the President of VSBA and its Executive Director, conveying the Association's decision to discontinue monitoring the status of local board members for compliance with the in-service provision; the reason given was the fact that "all other requirements as outlined in the Standards of Quality are reported directly to the state Superintendent for Public Instruction and Board of Education ...," and

WHEREAS, according to the Virginia School Board Association, as of July 1, 1996, 62% of local school board members are now elected, rather than appointed, providing for direct accountability to the citizens of their locality; and

WHEREAS, due to the above, it is the Board's intention to propose eliminating this requirement when next the Standards of Quality are revised, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the State Board hereby rescinds its motion of June 23, 1988, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction's Memorandum No. 2, dated January 18, 1989; and be it

RESOLVED FURTHER that, if there is a question as to what would satisfy the requirements of Standard of Quality 5.D, the State Board would, if requested by a local school board or local school board member, provide advice on the in-service program requirement.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board encourages local boards to make available to the public, upon request, information on such training as local board members choose, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that compliance with the requirement for in-service training for local school board members shall be certified to the state Board of Education in the same manner as are other provisions of the Standards of Quality.

Report on the Fall 1996 Literacy Passport Results

Mrs. Cam Harris reported on the Fall 1996 administration of the Literacy Passport Test.

Participants in the fall 1996 administration were (a) students retaking a test(s) failed in previous years, (b) students taking the test for the first time because they have recently transferred to a Virginia public school from a private school or out of state, (c) students who were absent during testing and make-up testing in previous years, or (d) students for whom testing was postponed in previous years. Ms. Harris noted that 58,267 students took one or more of the three tests during the testing period from October 1, through October 15, 1996.

The 1997 Outcome Accountability Report

Ms. Cam Harris reported that the Outcome Accountability Project report includes forty-six indicators of students' educational performance reported at the state, division, and school levels. It was noted that Virginia students continue to improve on the majority of those indicators over a six-year period. The Outcome Accountability Project statistics are for more than 1,600 public schools and 133 school divisions in Virginia.

First Review of Nominations to the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure

The Superintendent's recommendations are: (1) that the Board of Education review the nominations received and appoint one classroom teacher to serve the two-year unexpired middle school term, effective July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1999, and (2) appoint one secondary teacher to serve a full three-year term on the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure (ABTEL) effective July 1, 1997 to June 30, 2000. The Board accepted the nominations for first review.

Responsibilities of the Board of Education Resulting from the 1997 Legislative Session

Mrs. Diane Atkinson reported on the responsibilities from the 1997 legislative session for the Board of Education. Mrs. Yecke requested that Board members receive a copy of the study regarding temporarily employed teachers.

Report on the Use of Technology in the Classroom

Dr. Ida Hill presented the report on the Use of Technology in the Classroom. Dr. Hill introduced Dr. Mark Edwards, Superintendent of Henrico County Schools. Dr. Edwards reviewed the technology program that is currently being used in the Henrico County Schools.

The Superintendent's recommendation is for the Board of Education to accept the report as assessment/evaluation program in progress; and anticipate more definitive data as the initiative moves

through the acquisition and installation phases to the implementation phase of development.

Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind Foundation

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education adjourned and the Foundation of the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind convened.

Ms. Easton conducted business of the Foundation, including election of officers. Mr. Ware was elected President, Dan Timberlake was elected Secretary Treasurer and Bob Whytal was elected Executive Director. In the absence of Mr. Ware, Ms. Easton proceeded with the meeting as noted on the agenda.

The Foundation of the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind adjourned and the Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education reconvened.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion that the Board of Education go into an executive session under *Virginia Code* ' 2.1-344.A.1 specifically to discuss personnel matters relating to licensure. Mrs. Yecke seconded the motion and the Board went into executive session at 11:55 a.m.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion that the Board certify by roll call that to the best of each member's knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive session that this certification motion applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session was heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Board Roll Call:

Ms. Easton - Aye
Mrs. Tuttle - Aye
Mr. Bell - Aye
Mr. Harris - Aye
Mr. Russell - Aye
Mrs. Yecke - Aye

The Board reconvened in a public session at 12:15 p.m.

Mr. Bell made a motion that the licensure application of the Carroll County School Board be denied. Mrs. Yecke seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Easton announced that the dates of the two additional public hearings for the Standards of Accreditation will be April 16, 1997 in Fairfax and April 30, 1997 in Abingdon.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Easton adjourned the meeting of the Virginia Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 12:20 p.m.

President